**‘Seventy gods for Seventy Nations’**

***“When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when He divided the sons of man, He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God.***[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/03/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn1) ***But the LORD’s portion is His people, Jacob His allotted inheritance.”*** Deuteronomy 32:8-9

It is often overlooked, but there was more than one punitive action taken by God because of the rebellion at Babel. The most obvious is the confusing of the languages. The immediate inability to communicate with others outside of one’s own family/tribe would have encouraged the newly formed people groups to move away from Babel and the plain in Shinar.

The second punitive action God took was specifically directed toward the people’s rebellion against Him. These people obviously did not want God to rule over them, He would put other “gods” over them. This is the meaning of the passage from Deuteronomy 32:8-9. These “gods,” or rather “sons of God,” would have been members of God’s divine counsel. Their new task as “administrators” of individual nations would have been to govern the nations as God’s divine representatives. As such, they would have been charged with governing the nations assigned to them as God would govern them. Though they were being given a great deal of responsibility in their new appointments, they would not have been given the right to be worshiped, because worship belongs to God alone.

It is likely that this arrangement began well enough. However, idolatry was quick to rear its ugly head. Mention of other gods is found already in Genesis 31 when Rachel, Jacob’s wife, stole her father Laban’s household gods.

We do not know if the “sons of God” began to accept the worship of the nations or if the people/nations cast them off in favor of worshiping the sun, the moon, the stars, and other created things. We do know that the Ten Plagues of Egypt (Exodus 7-11) specifically targeted the ten gods/goddesses of the Egyptians. These gods/goddesses were associated with things the Egyptians could see with their physical eyes.[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/03/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn2)

Though the Ten Plagues showed God’s sovereignty and power over all other gods and goddesses, they would have had another purpose, to provoke the Egyptians to jealously desire Israel’s God. God loves the world. He loves all people. The punitive action against the seventy nations was never intended to be permanent. Through Israel, God would send One who would be the Savior/Redeemer of all nations. We read of this in Psalm 2: 6-8.

6    “Yet I have set My King

On My holy hill of Zion.”

7    “I will declare the decree:

The Lord has said to Me,

‘You *are* My Son,

Today I have begotten You.

8    **Ask of Me, and I will give *You***

**The nations *for* Your inheritance,**

**And the ends of the earth *for* Your possession.**

Jesus also spoke of God’s plans and purposes when he said, *‘And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all to Myself.’* **[[3]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/03/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn3)**

The reversal of the punitive action of turning the nations over to other gods, began ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven. On that day, Jews from many nations were gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate that Feast. Acts 2 is the record of that amazing event.

1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? **8 And how *is it that* we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?**9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—**we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.**” Acts 2:1-11

This passage states, ***5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.*** These people would not have been able to keep the wonder of this day to themselves. They would have shared it with their families and neighbors and people who traveled to Jerusalem from other nations. When the opportunity presented itself, and they traveled back to their own nations, they would have shared what they had seen with their own eyes and heard with their own ears with their countrymen.

Since the first century, God has been actively working to reverse Babel. He has been drawing the nations to Himself through Jesus His Son, whose death on the cross was for everyone of every nation!

Seventy gods for Seventy Nations? No. One God and one Savior for all nations!

[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/03/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref1) In the article, ‘Deuteronomy 32:8 and the Sons of God,’ see <http://www.thedivinecouncil.com/DT32BibSac.pdf>, Michael S. Heiser explains why the phrase ‘sons of God’ is the preferred translation for Deuteronomy 32:8 even though most Bible translations have chosen to render the Hebrew ‘sons of Israel.’ Heiser makes his point with scholarly acumen.

[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/03/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref2) <http://www.stat.rice.edu/~dobelman/Dinotech/10_Eqyptian_gods_10_Plagues.pdf> The 10 Egyptian gods and the 10 Plagues (Wonders) God sent against them would have been: 1) Hapi – Egyptian god of the Nile; this Egyptian god was a water bearer. Plague – Water turned to blood; 2) Heket – Egyptian goddess of fertility, water, renewal; this goddess had the head of a frog. Plague – Frogs coming from the Nile River; 3) Geb – Egyptian god over the dust of the earth; Plague – Lice from the dust of the earth; 4) Kehpri – Egyptian god of creation, movement of the sun, rebirth; this god had the head of a fly. Plague – Swarm of flies; 5) Hathor – Egyptian goddess of love and protection; this goddess was depicted with the head of a cow. Plague – Death of cattle and Livestock; 6) Isis – Egyptian goddess of medicine and peace; Plague – Ashes turned to boils and sores; 7) Nut – Egyptian goddess of the sky; Plague – Hail rained down from the sky in the form of fire; 8) Seth – Egyptian god of storms and disorder; Plague – Locusts sent from the sky; 9) Ra – the sun god; Plague – Three days of complete darkness; 10) Pharaoh – the ultimate power of Egypt; Plague – Death of the firstborn

[[3]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/03/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref3) John 12:32